Advanced Placement Program Policy Agreement

Dear Parents and Student,

Hernando High School is pleased to offer several Advanced Placement US History (APUSH) classes for the 2010-2011 school year. This demanding class requires more effort, time, and skills than Honors or Regular level classes and is recommended for highly motivated students. We are pleased that you have considered enrolling in an AP class. However, we want all parents and students to completely understand the rigor of the class and the commitment required by the student. For this reason, we require that the student and his/her parent/guardian read and sign this agreement. Unlike most high school curriculums that are separated by semesters or nine weeks, learning AP course material is an ongoing process culminating in the AP exam.

Please read the following information carefully. If you wish to continue in the AP class, sign the agreement and bring it to your AP teacher.

**Homework**

The daily average for homework will be 30-45 minutes. Students are often assigned reading or long-term projects that require them to plan their time so that they are not overwhelmed by deadlines. Developing self-discipline in the areas of time management is a goal of all AP classes.

**Late Work**

Late work is generally NOT accepted in APUSH classes. A grade of zero (0) will be given for any assignment not turned in the day it is due.

**Grading**

The grading policies for each AP course are given to the student the first week of school. In general, the higher the grade level, the less emphasis on daily work. Because AP classes are college level, daily grades make up a very small part of the overall grade.

**Parent/Teacher/Student Relationships**

AP classes are college-level courses and the students are expected to be responsible for their behavior, assignments, and any conflict resolution. Parents are welcome to conference with AP teachers, buy students are expected to use this opportunity to develop the independence needed in the college setting they will shortly experience. The goal of al AP classes is to give students the opportunity to develop the academic and personal skills needed for success in high school and college.

**School Business**

AP students will often be involved in academic and extra-curricular field trips and school business activities. However, too many absences of any type are detrimental to successful performance in AP classes where the pace of the class is faster in order to prepare students for the AP exams in early May. Because there is currently no policy limiting each student’s number of field trips or school business activities, parents and students are asked to be selective in their requests for school business absences and consider the following:

* Any class work missed must be made up to the teacher’s specifications and timeline
* Field trips and school business activities can be separated into those required by the curriculum (ex. band performances and athletic schedules) and non-essential activities
* Students must take responsibility for their choices
* Parents should encourage their children to be balanced in their activities and academics and not become overly committed

**Exam Policies for Advanced Placement Courses:**

First Semester Exams (December):

APUSH instructors will use a practice AP style exam, either from the district or their own design, for the first semester exam. Because of the importance of continuous practice, all students in a first semester AP course are required to take the semester exam

**Agreement**

My child and I have read the above agreement and my child would like to enroll in an AP course. We understand the level of work required and the policies explained on the previous pages and are prepared to fulfill these requirements.

Student Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_